

REMARKS

In the pending Office Action, claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by JP 2005-204185 to Washisu. Claims 2 and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Washisu in view of USP No. 6,771,308 to Yamamoto. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter being recited by claims 3, 4 and 12. For the following reasons Applicants respectfully submit the pending rejections must be withdrawn.

The present application claims priority to PCT/JP2005/003776, which was filed on March 4, 2005. The publication date of Washisu is July 28, 2005. Thus, the effective filing date of the instant application (not even including the claim of priority to JP 2004-079849) precedes the date Washisu can be utilized as prior art (i.e., July 28, 2005). Thus, as Washisu does not constitute valid prior art with respect to the instant application, both of the pending rejections set forth in the Office Action must be withdrawn.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

10/593,445

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Respectfully submitted,

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